

## **WSDA Nursery Advisory Committee Meeting**

*September 29, 2017, 9:00 am to noon, WSDOT Maintenance Facility, Kent, WA*

**Attending:** Roger Canfield, Rick Longnecker, Dan Meier, Robert Schmitz

**WSDA:** Cindy Cooper, Scott Brooks, Alison Halpern, Jim Marra, Lara Massey

**Guest:** Tammy Hetrick, Washington Retail Association, Holly Osborne (WSNLA),

**Absent:** Breanne Chavez, Ben DeGoede, Jeff Van Lierop, Richard Roozen, Jeff Sample, Todd Snyder

### **Introductions**

#### **Committee Membership:**

Five members' terms are expiring in 2017. Dan and Roger agreed to serve another three year term.

#### **Financials:**

Financials were reviewed. Discussion on licensing:

- Cindy mentioned the new customer service specialist on staff with Plant Services, Cheryl Spink. Hopefully she can help increase our outreach to potential licensees.
- Also an "Email Blast" to WALP members is still an option, with Rick's assistance.
- Plant Services will be able to access licensee revenue data through DOR's new Atlas portal, beginning in 2018. Accessing licensee revenue data is within the authority of this program, and will be used to confirm the correct nursery endorsement fee class.

#### **P. ramorum status:**

Scott reviewed the current efforts for P. ramorum:

- One opt-in nursery participating in the federal SOD compliance agreement.
- Extensive mitigation protocols now in place at that nursery.
- 9 nurseries opted out – can't ship out of state.
- Trace forwards – several last year, from Oregon and California. No positives were found.
- DNR streambaiting – all negative.

#### **Bloedel Reserve**

- First detection in 2015. Multiple positive sites were found within the garden.
- Mitigation efforts and BMPs implemented since 2015:
  - Thinning/removing host plants
  - Fungicide treatments
  - Steam treatments through WSU (steaming machine funded by NAC)
  - New BMPs implemented, such as staff now carry disinfectant with them.
- Currently negative, with the last detection in Jan 2016.
- Exit strategy – USDA is working on a survey schedule.

### **Xylella fastidiosa:**

Scott gave the background on this pest:

- Detected in EU on olives.
- All hosts are prohibited since 2015 without “pest-free area (PFA)” certification.
- Found in pear trees in Hood River, OR in 2016.
- Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) awarded in cooperation with the Pest Program – 3 years, 10 PFAs.
- All samples collected for 2017 – 4,580 total. Results will be available in October 2017.

### **Nursery Quarantine Violations**

Scott gave a review of the violations in 2017:

- Inspectors noted quite a few violations of our plant health quarantines and license rules in 2017, including importing non-certified grapevines, fruit trees shipped into the apple maggot protected area of eastern Washington, with fruit hanging on the trees, offering prohibited *Buddleia davidii* for sale, and operating without a nursery endorsement. All violations were voluntarily corrected, no fines were issued.

Candidate Species for Prohibited Plant Quarantine/State Noxious Weed Board lists:

Dr. Alison Halpern :

- Class A: One candidate
  - *Impatiens parviflora* (small-flowered touch-me-not)
- Class B: Two candidates
  - *Tussilago farfara* (Coltsfoot)
  - *Centaurea melitensis* (Maltese star thistle or tocalote)
- Class C: Three candidates
  - *Myriophyllum spicatum*/hybrids (Eurasian watermilfoil) – hybridizing with *M. sibiricum*
  - *Impatiens capensis* (jewelweed) – hybridizing with natives
  - *Bromus tectorum* (cheatgrass)

Possible requests for addition to the WSDA quarantine list:

- *Arum italicum*, *Saccharum ravennae* (Ravenna grass), *Daphne laureola* (spurge laurel), *Euphorbia myrsinitis* (myrtle spurge), *Anchusa arvensis* (annual bugloss), *Iris pseudacoris* (yellow flag iris), *Berteroa incana* (hoary allysum – toxic to horses).

Running bamboo:

- Increasing city and county-level ordinances around the country.
- Education may continue to help – discussed that the public does seem to be aware of this plant.

### **Update on Invasive Ivy Study:**

- Genetic testing/ID of *Hedera helix* is changing to morphological keys instead. May still be challenging due to difficulty categorizing them based on stem hair patterns.
- May be able to utilize crowd source sampling via Facebook.

### **Update on Pest Issues**

Gypsy moth:

- 116 gypsy moths trapped this summer.

- All European, no Asian.
- 84 trapped in one residential location in Graham, Pierce County.
- The rest trapped on the naval bases in Bangor and on Whidbey Island.
- Another round of treatments will happen in those three areas.
- Three years of negative trapping is considered a full eradication.

#### Japanese beetle:

- Number of Western states with captures of reproducing populations
- Caught 10 here in WA, but none reproducing. All were in airports – airports complete the treatments.

#### Apple maggot quarantine:

- Pest program has been petitioned to add soil and media as a regulated commodity.
- Would also include fruited host plants (malus, pyrus, prunus).
- SBEIS (Small Business Economic Impact Statement) must be completed (50 employees or less in size).
- Rule change is slated for next year.

Dan asked about the possibility of boxwood blight certification. Industry is very interested. More and more east coast states are quarantining. Plant Services will look into developing a program.

#### NAC-funded projects review:

Gary Chastagner of WSU Puyallup gave a review of three projects funded through the NAC. Before his presentation, Cindy awarded Gary a certificate of appreciation for his service to the nursery industry.

#### Studies on Phytophthoras:

- Wide range of Phytophthoras and hosts.
- 4 new found in native plant nurseries
- Provided BMP workshops to nurseries.

#### Steaming projects:

- Nursery pots can be affected by the high temperatures of steaming. Heavier are better.
- Very successful on *P. ramorum*, somewhat successful on weeds.
- Thermal covers give rapid heating and retention of critical temperatures.
- WSU will put out a "Steaming Bulletin" with BMPs, etc. Gary's crew is continuing to train/educate on CCPs (Critical Control Points) and BMPs.

#### *P. nicotianae* on lavender:

- East coast finding on plants from WA, not recorded here previously.
- Direct testing of roots and stem tissue with Agdia strips is not working on lavender. If baited, then works.

**Next meeting scheduled for February 23 or March 2, 2018.**